

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 20, 22, and 24-28 are currently pending in the present application.

I. The Amended Claims are Not Anticipated

In the Office Action mailed June 13, 2007, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Natterer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,027,578); Claims 1 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lam et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,651,943); and Claims 1, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kluttz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,429,007). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nonetheless, Applicants herein amend the claims in order to further their business interests and the prosecution of the present application, yet without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and while preserving the right to prosecute the canceled (or similar) claims in the future. Specifically, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 5-6, 20, 22, and 24-30. Applicants herein add new Claims 31 and 32. Claim 31 represents cancelled Claim 29 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 32 represents cancelled Claim 30 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that in the Office Action of June 13, 2007 at page 5, the Examiner found that Claims 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten as indicated above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections and pass Claims 31 and 32 to allowance.

II. The Amended Claims are Not Obvious

The Examiner rejected Claims 5, 6, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kluttz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,429,007). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nonetheless, Applicants herein amend the claims in order to further their business interests and the prosecution of the present application, yet without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and while preserving the right to prosecute the canceled (or similar)

claims in the future. Applicants respectfully submit that amendments to the claims renders the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) moot.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have addressed all grounds for rejection and request that Applicants' claims be passed to allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 218-6900.

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